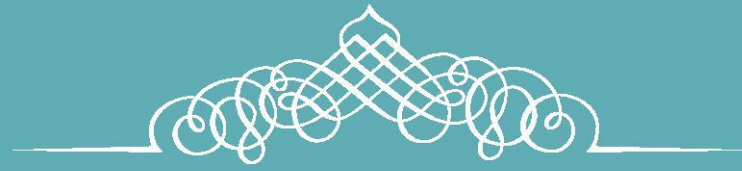






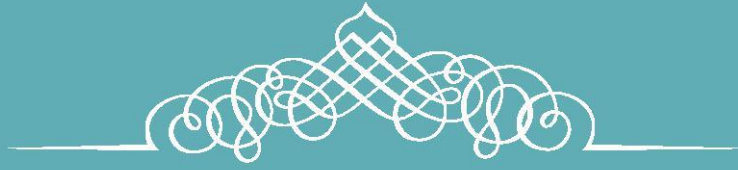
*“Mathurā-dhāma is blessed,
being superior even to
Vaikunṭha, the holy abode of
Śrī Nārāyaṇa. By residing
in Mathurā for only one day
a person attains devotion to
Lord Hari, and by residing
here three nights, one attains
that most rare love of God,
which is difficult to obtain
even for great liberated souls.”*



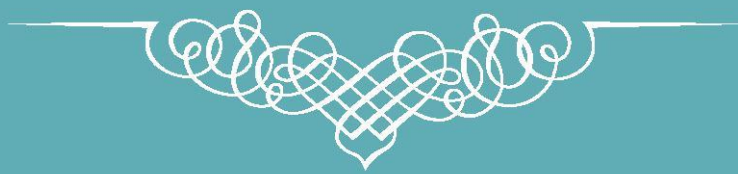


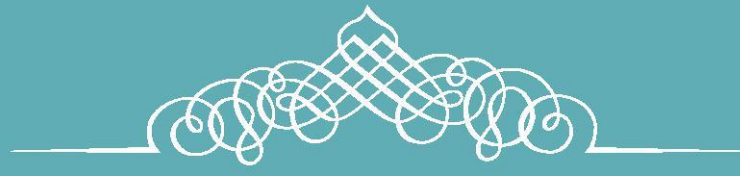
“As the boys herded the cows, delightful uproars would break out amongst them. In this way, all of Madhuvana was showered with the sweet nectar (madhu) of prema, which Śrī Kṛṣṇa and Śrī Balarāma relished while grazing the cows.”





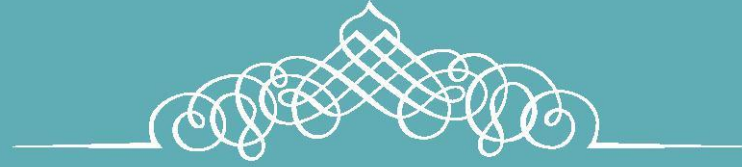
“Upon hearing the words of Their friends, Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma laughed and, desiring to give them pleasure, entered Tālavana in their company.”





*“While herding the cows,
Śrī Kṛṣṇa, Śrī Balarāma
and the cowherd boys wandered
throughout this delightful place.
Śrī Kṛṣṇa Himself sported in
this kuṇḍa with the cowherd boys
and with sweet words He would
summon the cows to the bank
of the pond by exclaiming,
“Tīrī-tīrī!” And then with
“Cūṅ-cūṅ!” He would tell them to
drink water. The boys decorated
each other with garlands made
of kumudinī flowers.”*



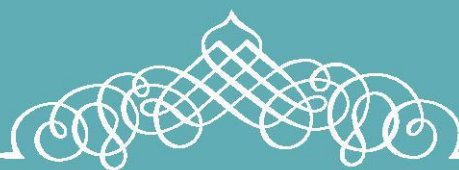


*“Once, when Śrīmatī Rādhikā
was in Her sulky mood (māna),
She hid Herself in a kuñja here.*

*In separation from Her,
Kṛṣṇa became completely distressed.*

*With the help of the sakhīs
He was able to find Śrīmatī
Rādhikā, and with great difficulty
He pacified Her māna.”*





*“Among all the gopīs,
Śrīmatī Rādhā
is Śrī Kṛṣṇa’s
prāṇa-vallabhā,
the dear most beloved
of His life. Similarly,
Rādhā’s dear kuṇḍa
is also extremely
dear to Him.”*





“O my friend, this Girirāja is the topmost among Śrī Hari’s servants and is absorbed in supreme bliss, being always touched by Śrī Balarāma and Śrī Kṛṣṇa’s lotus feet. Girirāja serves and satisfies Śrī Kṛṣṇa, Balarāma, the cowherd boys and the cows by providing them with water from his pure lakes and ponds, with lush grass, fruits, roots and various minerals like gairīka.”





*“O Mahārāja, thereafter
lies Kāmyavana,
where Vrajendra-nandana
Śrī Kṛṣṇa performed
many childhood pastimes.
Bathing in Kāma and
other ponds in this forest
fulfils all kinds of desires,
even the desire for service
to Kṛṣṇa that is imbued
with prema.”*





*“Varsānā is the pastime
place of Śrī Kṛṣṇa’s
beloved Śrīmatī Rādhikā.*

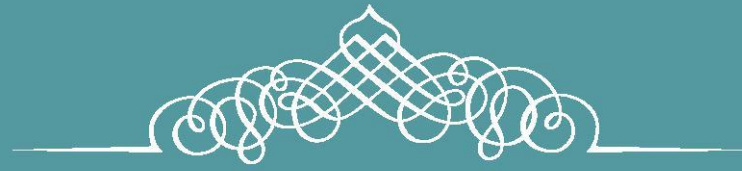
*Lying at the heart of
this village is a multitude
of the Divine Couple’s
sweet and secret amorous
pastimes, together with
Their transcendental moods
and desires. ”*





*“Those who are afraid of
the perplexities of worldly
life worship the Śrutis and
Smṛtis, and others may
worship the Mahābhārata.
Let them do so. I myself
will always worship Nanda
Bābā, in whose courtyard
the Supreme Absolute Truth
is crawling here and there
on His knees.”*





*“Sometimes, rasika
Śrī Kṛṣṇa would adorn
His chest here with
the red lac, or jāvaka,
from Śrī Rādhikā’s
lotus feet. This place,
which is decorated with
a vaṭa (banyan) tree is
renown as Jāvata or
Yāva-grāma.”*





*“While Śrī Kṛṣṇa sat
on Akrūra’s chariot, waiting
to depart, He became disturbed
upon seeing the condition of the
gopīs in their mood of separation.
To pacify them, He told them,
‘I promise that I will surely
return the day after tomorrow.’
The day after tomorrow is called
parson in Hindī; hence the name
of this village became Parson.”*



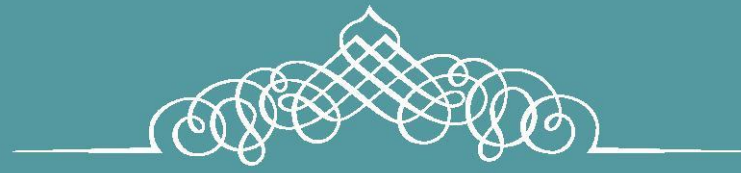


*bhadrāya bhadrārūpāya sadā kalyāṇa-varddhane
amaṅgalacchīde tasmai namo bhadrāvanāya ca*

Bhaviṣya Purāṇa (Uttara-khaṇḍa)

*“O Bhadravana, personification
of auspiciousness. You perpetually
bestow auspiciousness upon all and
destroy inauspiciousness. I repeatedly
offer my respects unto you.”*





“Māṭavana is one of the main forests of Vraja-maṇḍala. It is a wide and spacious area on the bank of the Yamunā.

Kṛṣṇa and Balabhadra would bring the cows to graze in this enchanting forest full of lush trees and creepers, green grass and untold varieties of fruits and flowers.”



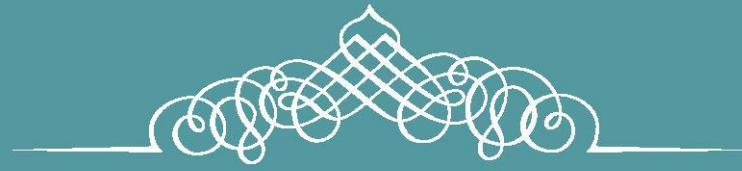


*tapahḥ śiddhī pradāyaiva namo bilvavanāya ca
janārdana namastubhyaṁ bilveśāya namostu te*

Bhaviṣya Purāṇa (Uttara-khaṇḍa)

*“O Bilvavana, bestower of the
perfection of austerities. I bow
down to you. O Janārdana, O
master of Bilvavana, obeisances
unto You.”*



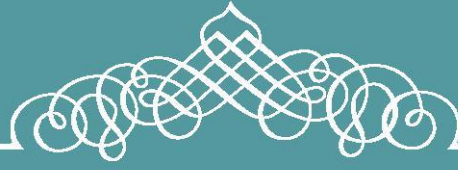


*“The Yamunā flows close by
Bṛhadvana, or Mahāvana.*

*This forest is beautifully
decorated with different
kinds of trees, creepers
and flowers, and there are
lush, green meadows
for the cows to graze in.*

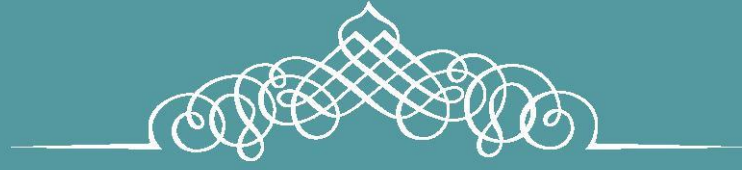
*Beholding this beauty,
the Vrajavāsī gopas became
very pleased and happily
began to reside here.”*





“Akrūra remained in the water to chant the mantra of his worshipful Lord, Sanātana Brahma (four-armed Viṣṇu), and meditate upon Him. On this day, however, instead of having darśana of his worshipful Sanātana Brahma in his meditation, he saw the forms of Śrī Rāma and Śrī Kṛṣṇa.”





*“Ah, in all three worlds, only
Śrī Vṛndāvana and the gopa-ramaṇīs
living in Vṛndāvana are fortunate,
because in that place the original
Supreme Person, Śrī Kṛṣṇa, disguised
as a human being, performs human-like
pastimes under the arrangement of Yogamāyā.
Adorned with a multi-coloured garland of
forest-flowers, He grazes
the cows with Baladeva and the sakḥās,
vibrating His sweet flute and absorbed
in various kinds of playful pastimes.”*



